



Albany-Dougherty

Economic Development Commission

NPL-01-3-170-R4
RECEIVED
8/23/88

P. O. Box 308
Albany, Georgia 31702
(912) 434-0044

August 19, 1988

Mr. Stephen Lingle, Director
Hazardous Site Evaluation Division (Attn: NPL Staff)
Office of Emergency and Remedial Response
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
401 M Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20460

Dear Mr. Lingle:

In behalf of the Albany/Dougherty Economic Development Commission, please consider our concerns relative to any time delays that may occur in determining whether or not the Firestone Tire Plant in Albany, Georgia, will become a part of the final National Priorities List for Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Sites.

The closing of this facility has caused untold financial and personal hardships on our community and its citizens. Accordingly, our marketing efforts during the past year and one-half have concentrated primarily on contacting prospective companies concerning the availability of this facility. To date, our efforts have proven unsuccessful.

A major manufacturer of tires in the United States recently expressed a great deal of interest in the Firestone facility; however, after the Albany Firestone Plant became a part of the preliminary National Priorities List, the company's interest quickly subsided. As a result of this most recent experience, our Commission now feels that we cannot continue effectively to market the Albany Firestone facility until a final determination is made on the 1.8 million square foot facility and its surrounding acreage.

While the June unemployment rate in the United States was 5.3 percent, unemployment in the Albany MSA for the same period was 9.7 percent. Our area has been designated a Federal Labor Surplus Area eligible for preferred treatment for U. S. Government contracts, and therefore, our Commission respectfully requests that the Albany Firestone site receive expeditious consideration by the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency. The longer no decisions are made relative to whether or not the Albany Firestone facility will be placed on the National Priorities List, the longer this facility will sit idle; the longer our marketing efforts will be stalled; and more importantly, the longer many of our citizens will be without work.



Mr. Stephen Lingle
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We need your help in determining our future. Please have the facts pertaining to the Albany Firestone Plant reviewed immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "C. Jones Hooks", written over the word "Sincerely,".

C. Jones Hooks
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR